## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for automated management of performance information associated with at least one business, the method comprising:

    obtaining performance information associated with a business, the performance information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications;

    converting, using an automated process, the performance information from the first format to a second format based at least in part on a mapping of one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications to one or more respective performance classifications of a second set of standardized performance classifications; and

    analyzing the converted performance information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics.

2. The method as in Claim 2, further comprising:

    generating one or more performance reports based on the analysis of the converted performance information.

3. The method as in Claim 2, wherein the one or more performance reports includes at least one alert indicator to identify at least one performance metric of the converted performance information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds a threshold associated with the at least one performance metric.

4. The method as in Claim 3, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the performance metric from a previous period.

5. The method as in Claim 3, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value set for the at least one performance metric.

6. The method as in Claim 3, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the at least one performance metric.

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7. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining performance information associated with a second business, the performance information having a third format based on a third set of performance classifications;

converting, using an automated process, the performance information associated with the second business from the third format to the second format based at least in part on a mapping of one or more performance classifications of the third set of performance classifications to one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications; and

analyzing the converted performance information associated with the second business based at least in part on one or more performance metrics.

8. The method as in Claim 7, further comprising:

generating one or more performance reports based on results of the analysis of the converted performance information associated with the second business.

9. The method as in Claim 7, further comprising:

aggregating the converted performance information associated with the first and second businesses; and

analyzing a performance of at least one of the first and second businesses based on one or more representative performance metrics from the aggregated converted performance information.

10. The method as in Claim 1, wherein obtaining the performance information includes receiving the performance information as one or more data files uploaded via a website.

11. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising providing the one or more performance reports to at least one requesting party.

12. The method as in Claim 11, wherein the one or more performance reports are provided via a website.

13. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the conversion of the performance information from the first format to the second format is performed at least in part using one or more software programs.

5    14. The method as in Claim 13, wherein the performance information is converted from the first format to the second format using a conversion map indicating correlations between performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications.

10    15. The method as in Claim 1, wherein the business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a public business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

16. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising:
    providing at least one alert to at least one requesting party, the alert identifying at least
15    one performance metric of the converted performance information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds a threshold associated with the at least one performance metric.

17. The method as in Claim 16, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the
20    performance metric from a previous period.

18. The method as in Claim 16, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value set for the at least one performance metric.

25    19. The method as in Claim 16, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the at least one performance metric.

20. The method as in Claim 16, wherein the alert is delivered via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.
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21. The method as in Claim 1, further comprising:

delivering at least a portion of the converted performance information to a requesting party as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the requesting party.

5   22.  The method as in Claim 1, wherein the performance information includes financial information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

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23.  The method as in Claim 1, wherein the performance information includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes an operational classification and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes an operational classification correlated to a
15   operational classification of the first set.

24.  A method for automated management of performance information associated with at least one business, the method comprising:

obtaining performance information associated with a business as electronic data uploaded
20   via a graphical user interface (GUI), the performance information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications;

converting, using at least one automated software program associated with the GUI, the performance information from the first format to a second format based at least in part on a mapping of the one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance
25   classifications to one or more corresponding performance classifications of a second set of performance classifications;

analyzing, using at least one automated software program associated with the GUI, the converted performance information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics; and

30   displaying one or more performance reports based on results of the analysis of the converted performance information via the GUI.

25. The method as in Claim 24, wherein the GUI includes one or more webpages of a website.

26. The method as in Claim 24, wherein the performance information is converted from the first format to the second format using a conversion map indicating correlations between performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications.

27. The method as in Claim 24, wherein the business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a public business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

28. The method as in Claim 24, further comprising:

   providing a least one alert to at least one requesting party via the website, the alert identifying at least one performance metric of the converted performance information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds a threshold associated with the at least one performance metric.

29. The method as in Claim 28, wherein the alert is delivered from the website via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.

30. The method as in Claim 24, further comprising:

   delivering at least a portion of the converted performance information to a requesting party via the website as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the requesting party.

31. The method as in Claim 24, wherein the performance information includes financial information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

32. The method as in Claim 24, wherein the performance information includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes an operational classification and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes an operational classification correlated to a operational classification of the first set.

33. A system for automated management of performance information associated with at least one business, the system comprising:

means for obtaining performance information associated with a business, the performance information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications;

automated means for converting the performance information from the first format to a second format based at least in part on a mapping of one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications to one or more performance classifications of a second set of performance classifications; and

automated means for analyzing the converted performance information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics.

34. The system as in Claim 33, further comprising:

automated means for generating one or more performance reports based on results of the analysis of the converted performance information.

35. The system as in Claim 34, wherein the one or more performance reports includes at least one alert indicator to identify at least one performance metric of the converted performance information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds a threshold associated with the performance metric.

36. The system as in Claim 34, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the performance metric from a previous period.

37. The system as in Claim 34, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value set for the performance metric.

38. The system as in Claim 34, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the performance metric.

39. The system as in Claim 33, further comprising:

means for obtaining performance information associated with a second business, the performance information having a third format based on a third set of performance classifications;

automated means for converting the performance information associated with the second business from the third format to the second format based at least in part on a mapping of one or more performance classifications of the third set of performance classifications to one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications; and

automated means for analyzing the converted performance information associated with the second business.

40. The system as in Claim 39, further comprising:

automated means for generating one or more performance reports based on results the analysis of the converted performance information associated with the second business.

41. The system as in Claim 39, further comprising:

means for aggregating the converted performance information associated with the first and second businesses; and

means for analyzing a performance of at least one of the first and second businesses based on one or more representative performance metrics from the aggregated converted performance information.

42. The system as in Claim 33, wherein the means for obtaining the performance information includes a website adapted to receive the performance information as one or more uploaded data files.

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43. The system as in Claim 33, further comprising means for providing the one or more performance reports to at least one requesting party.

44. The system as in Claim 43, wherein the means for providing the one or more performance reports includes a website adapted to provide the one or more performance reports as one or more webpages.

45. The system as in Claim 33, wherein the automated means for converting the performance information from the first format to the second format includes one or more software programs adapted to convert the performance information using a conversion map indicating correlations between performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications.

46. The system as in Claim 33, wherein the business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a public business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

47. The system as in Claim 33, further comprising:
  means for providing at least one alert to at least one requesting party, the alert identifying at least one performance metric of the converted performance information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds a threshold associated with the at least one performance metric.

48. The system as in Claim 47, wherein the predetermined value includes a value of the performance metric from a previous period.

49. The system as in Claim 47, wherein the predetermined value includes a target value set for the at least one performance metric.

50. The system as in Claim 47, wherein the predetermined value includes a value representative of an industry average for the at least one performance metric.

51. The system as in Claim 47, wherein the alert is delivered via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.

52. The system as in Claim 33, further comprising:

means for delivering at least a portion of the converted performance information to a requesting party as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the requesting party.

53. The system as in Claim 33, wherein the performance information includes financial information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

54. The system as in Claim 33, wherein the performance information includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes an operational classification and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes an operational classification correlated to a operational classification of the first set.

55. A system for automated management of performance information associated with a at least one business, the system comprising:

one or more networked servers adapted to:

operate a website having one or more webpages;

obtain performance information associated with a business as electronic data uploaded via one or more webpages of the website, the performance information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications;

convert the performance information from the first format to a second format based at least in part on a mapping between one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications to one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications;

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analyze the converted performance information based at least in part on one or more performance metrics; and

provide one or more performance reports of results of the analysis of the converted performance information for display via the one or more webpages of the website.

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56. The system as in Claim 55, wherein the one or more networked servers are adapted to convert the performance information using a conversion map indicating correlations between one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications.

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57. The system as in Claim 55, wherein the one or more networked servers are further adapted to:

obtain performance information associated with a second business as electronic data uploaded via one or more webpages of the website, the performance information associated with

15   the second business having a third format based on a third set of performance classifications;

convert the performance information associated with the second business from the third format to the second format based at least in part on a mapping between one or more performance classifications of the third set of performance classifications to one or more respective performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications;

20         analyze the converted performance information associated with the second business based at least in part on one or more performance metrics; and

provide for the display of one or more performance reports of results of the analysis of the converted performance information associate with the second business via the one or more webpages of the website.

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58. The system as in Claim 55, wherein the business is one of a group consisting of: a private business; a public business; a non-profit organization; and a government agency.

59. The system as in Claim 55, wherein the one or more networked servers are further adapted

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provide a least one alert to at least one requesting party via the website, the alert identifying at least one performance metric of the converted performance information having a variance from a corresponding predetermined value that exceeds a threshold associated with the at least one performance metric.

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60. The system as in Claim 59, wherein the alert is delivered from the website via at least one of a group comprising: an email; a facsimile; a voice message; and a text message.

61. The method as in Claim 55, wherein the one or more networked servers are further adapted

10   to:

deliver at least a portion of the converted performance information to a requesting party via the website as one or more data files having a format compatible with software operated by the requesting party.

15   62. The system as in Claim 55, wherein the performance information includes financial information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes a financial account and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes a financial account correlated to a financial account of the first set.

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63. The system as in Claim 55, wherein the performance information includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications includes an operational classification and one or more of the performance classifications of the second set includes an operational classification correlated to a

25   operational classification of the first set.

64. A method for mapping business performance information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications to a second format based on a second set of performance classifications, the method comprising:

30   displaying a list of one or more performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications via a graphical user interface (GUI);

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displaying a list of one or more of performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications via the GUI;

receiving user input indicating correlations between one or more of the displayed performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more of the

5 displayed performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications; and

generating a conversion map for converting the business performance information from the first format to the second format based at least in part on the correlations indicated by the user input.

10 65. The method as in Claim 64, further comprising converting the business performance information from the first format to the second format using the conversion map.

66. The method as in Claim 65, wherein the business performance information is converted from the first format to the second format using one or more automated software programs.

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67. The method as in Claim 64, further comprising:

obtaining additional business performance information having the first format; and

converting the additional business performance information from the first format to the second format using the conversion map.

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68. The method as in Claim 64, wherein the conversion map is generated using one or more automated software programs associated with the GUI.

69. The method as in Claim 64, wherein the GUI includes one or more webpages of a website.

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70. A system for mapping business performance information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications to a second format based on a second set of performance classifications, the system comprising:

means for displaying a list of one or more performance classifications of the first set of

30 performance classifications on a graphical user interface (GUI);

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means for displaying a list of one or more of performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications on the GUI;

means for receiving user input indicating correlations between one or more of the displayed performance classifications of the first set of performance classifications and one or more displayed performance classifications of the second set of performance classifications; and

means for generating a conversion map for converting the business performance information from the first format to the second format based at least in part on the corrlations indicated by the user input.

71. The system as in Claim 70, further comprising automated means for converting the business performance information from the first format to the second format using the conversion map.

72. The system as in Claim 70, further comprising:

means for obtaining additional business performance information having the first format; and

automated means for converting the additional business performance information from the first format to the second format using the conversion map.

73. The system as in Claim 70, wherein the GUI includes one or more webpages of a website.

74. A method for providing a benchmark analysis of performance information associated with at least one business, the method comprising:

converting performance information associated with each of a plurality of businesses to a first format;

aggregating at least a portion of the converted performance information of each of the plurality of businesses;

identifying one or more representative performance metrics representative of the plurality of businesses based at least in part on an analysis of the aggregated performance information; and

benchmarking performance information associated with a first business based at least in part on a comparison of the performance information associated with the first business with at least one of the one or more representative performance metrics.

5    75.  The method as in Claim 74, further comprising converting the performance information associated with the first business to the first format and wherein the converted performance information associated with the first business is compared with the at least one of the one or more representative performance metrics.

10    76.  The method as in Claim 74, further comprising generating one or more performance reports based at least in part on results of the comparison of the performance information associated with the first business with the at least one representative performance metric.

77.  The method as in Claim 74, wherein the one or more performance reports includes at least

15    one alert indicator to identify at least one performance metric of the performance information associated with the first business that has a variance from a corresponding representative performance metric that exceeds a threshold associated with the performance metric.

78.  The method as in Claim 74, wherein at least one of the steps of converting, aggregating,

20    identifying and analyzing are performed at least in part using one or more automated software programs.

79.  The method as in Claim 74, wherein at least one business of the plurality of businesses is a private business.

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80.  The method as in Claim 79, wherein the first business is a private business.

81.  The method as in Claim 79, wherein the first business and the plurality of businesses have one or more business classifications in common.

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82. The method as in Claim 79, wherein the one or more business classifications include at least one of a group consisting of: a similar industry type; a similar size; a similar revenue; a similar asset value; a same business entity type; a similar stage of maturity; and a similar geographical location.

83. The method as in Claim 79, wherein the performance information includes financial information and where one or more of the performance classifications includes a financial account.

84. The method as in Claim 79, wherein the performance information includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications includes an operational classification.

85. A method for providing a benchmark analysis of performance information associated with at least one business, the method comprising:

converting performance information associated with a first business from a first format based on a first set of performance classifications to a second format based on a second set of performance classifications;

comparing the converted performance information with performance information associated with a second business and having the second format, wherein the second business has at least one business classification in common with the first business; and

generating one or more performance reports based at least in part on results of the comparison.

86. The method as in Claim 85, further comprising the step of converting the performance information associated with the second business from a third format based on a third set of performance classifications to the second format.

87. The method as in Claim 85, wherein the steps of converting, comparing and generating are performed at least in part using one or more automated software programs.

88.  The method as in Claim 85, further comprising providing the one or more performance reports for display via one or more webpages of a website.

89.  The method as in Claim 85, wherein the first business and second businesses are private

5   businesses.

90.  A system for providing a benchmark analysis of performance information associated with a business, the system comprising:

a database having performance information associated with a plurality of businesses, the

10  performance information having a first format based on a first set of performance classifications;

automated means for identifying one or more representative performance metrics representing the plurality of businesses based at least in part on an analysis of the performance information of the database; and

automated means for benchmarking performance information associated with a first

15  business based at least in part on a comparison of the performance information of the first business with at least one of the one or more representative performance metrics.

91.  The system as in Claim 90, further comprising automated means for generating one or more performance reports based at least in part on results of the comparison of the performance

20  information associated with the first business with the at least one representative performance metric.

92.  The system as in Claim 91, further comprising means for providing the one or more performance reports for display via one or more webpages of a website.

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93.  The system as in Claim 90, further comprising automated means for converting the performance information associated with the first business from a second format based on a second set of performance classifications to the first format.

30  94.  The system as in Claim 90, wherein the each business of the plurality of businesses is a private business.

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95. The method as in Claim 94, wherein the first business is a private business.

96. The system as in Claim 90, wherein the first business and the plurality of businesses have one or more business classifications in common.

97. The method as in Claim 90, wherein the one or more business classifications include at least one of a group consisting of: a similar industry type; a similar size; a similar revenue; a similar asset value; a same business entity type; a similar stage of maturity; and a similar geographical location.

98. The method as in Claim 90, wherein the performance information includes financial information and where one or more of the performance classifications includes a financial account.

99. The method as in Claim 90, wherein the performance information includes operational information and where one or more of the performance classifications include an operational classification.